

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-9, 11-16 and 21-23 were pending. Claims 9 and 11-16 stand allowed, claims 1-8 and 21 were rejected, and claims 22-23 were withdrawn. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 21-23 remain pending in the subject application.

The Examiner has objected to the specification in regards to the claim limitation "a single flexible extension member" recited in claim 21. For reasons provided below, claim 21 has been amended to recite "only one flexible extension member". Since the drawings form a part of the specification, and a single or one flexible extension member is clearly shown in the drawings, it is respectfully argued that there is proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Thus, removal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite "extension" after "flexible" to address the Examiner's objection thereto. Thus, removal of this objection is also respectfully requested.

Claim 21 has been further amended to address the 112 rejection thereto. More specifically, claim 21 has been amended to recite that the body is adapted to mate with an interior wall of the bar, and the plug has been amended to recite a portion on a side thereof directly opposite the one flexible extension member to mate with the interior wall of the bar that is directly opposite the aperture in the sidewall of the bar that receives the aperture engaging member of the one flexible extension member. Thus, removal of the 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Antonucci et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,306). Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Popsys (U.S. Patent No. 5,496,141). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gieling et al. (U.S. Patent

No. 5,144,780). Claims 1-3, 5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kwilosz (U.S. Patent No. 6,799,931). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons:

In response to the Amendment submitted December 15, 2005, the Examiner notes that the claim limitation "the projecting member extends through the aperture" is not positively recited in the claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite that "the projecting member is placed within and extends through the aperture". Thus, claim 1 recites that the aperture in the sidewall of the bar extends completely therethrough and the projecting member of the flexible extension member is placed within and extends through the aperture. Since none of the cited references teach or suggest all of the limitations as now more clearly recited in amended claim 1, claim 1 is allowable.

In regards to claim 21, claim 21 has been amended to recite only one flexible extension member, such that the aperture engaging member of the one flexible extension member operatively engages an aperture in a sidewall of the bar to secure the bar to the trashcan. Contrary to the claimed invention, the plug of Gieling et al. includes two flexible members. Thus, claim 21 is not anticipated by Gieling et al. For at least this reason, claim 21 is allowable.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Claims 22 and 23 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed towards a nonelected species. Since claim 21 is generic, claims 22 and 23 are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

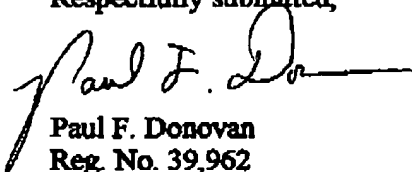
No new matter has been added by way of the remarks made herein. Allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining

issues that need to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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